



Meeting Summary

Upper San Joaquin Regional Management Actions Work Group Meeting #1

June 22, 2010, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

**Location: Merced County Farm Bureau
646 S. State Highway 59
Merced, CA, 95341**

WORK GROUP ATTENDANCE:

Name	Organization	Status
Reggie Hill	Lower San Joaquin Levee District	Member
Kellie Jacobs	County of Merced	Member
Jerry Lakeman	Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District	Member
Mari Martin	Resource Management Coalition	Member
Geoffrey Rabone	Merced Irrigation District	Alternate
John Shelton	CA Department of Fish and Game	Member
Steve Stadler	Kings River Conservation District	Member
Erik Vink	Trust for Public Land	Member
Mike Inamine	California Department of Water Resources (DWR)	DWR Executive Sponsor
Jim Eto	DWR	CVFPO**
Elizabeth Hubert	DWR	FESSRO***
Brian Smith	DWR	DWR Lead
Ernie Taylor	DWR	DWR Regional Coordinator
Eric Clyde	MWH	Technical Lead
Pam Jones	Kearns & West	Team, Facilitator
Ben Gettleman	Kearns & West	Facilitation Support

* Central Valley Flood Management Planning

** Central Valley Flood Planning Office

*** FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office

Absent:

Randall Anthony	Merced Irrigation District	Member
Margit Aramburu	University of the Pacific, Natural Resources Institute	Member
John Cain	American Rivers	Member
S. Leo Capuchino	City of Mendota	Member
Sarge Green	CA Water Institute, CSU Fresno	Member
Dave Koehler	San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust	Member

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Bill Luce	Friant Water Authority	Member
Paul Romero	DWR, Flood Plain Management Division	Member

Observers:

Pal Hegedus	CVFED
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WORK GROUP HOMEWORK/ACTION ITEMS

- Prior to the Phase 2 workshops, review and provide comments on the Management Actions Summary Table and Draft Management Actions Evaluation Form. Comments should be sent to Ben Gettleman at bgettleman@kearnswest.com.
- Review the schedule of Phase 2 workshops (available at <http://www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp/docs/AttendeesGuide20100706.pdf>) and plan on attending workshops of interest.

ACTION ITEMS: PROGRAM TEAM

1. Ben Gettleman, Kearns & West, will send a draft meeting summary to the work group.
2. Ben Gettleman will send a scheduling poll to the work group for RMAWG Meeting #2 when the potential meeting dates are known.
3. Ben Gettleman will notify the work group when the complete set of Management Actions Evaluation Forms is available for review on the CVFMP website.
4. Ben Gettleman will investigate whether a summary of the June 3, 2010, Valleywide Forum was created. If it has, he will forward the summary to the work group.

MEETING GOALS

1. Launch CVFPP Phase 2 and Affirm Regional Management Actions Work Group (RMAWG) Charter
2. Discuss the Relationship of Phase 2 to next Phases of the CVFPP
3. Receive Feedback on the Management Actions Categories and Evaluation Form
4. Organize for Phase 2 Workshops and future Phase 2 work

SUMMARY

Welcome and Greetings

Jim Eto, CVFPO representative for the Upper San Joaquin RMAWG, welcomed the work group participants. Mr. Eto also thanked the members who participated in Phase 1 of the CVFPP process.

Pam Jones, meeting facilitator, reviewed the meeting purpose, goals and agenda. She informed the group that with the commencement of Phase 2, the group would begin to assess management actions. The group then gave self-introductions.

Q: Can you provide an update on the June 3, 2010, CVFMP Valleywide Forum?

A: Sarge Green represented the Upper San Joaquin group at the Forum, and unfortunately he is not here today to provide a report-back. The team can provide a brief recap later during the meeting, and the

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webcast of the Forum is available on the CVFMP website.

Review RMAWG Charter

Pam Jones reviewed Upper San Joaquin RMAWG charter. The work group is chartered to complete the following key tasks:

- Help identify a broad set of individual management actions for consideration in the CVFPP;
- Review evaluation methods and screening criteria; and
- Consider results from public workshops held on specific management action topics.

Ms. Jones also clarified that the group was chartered to contribute a regional perspective with respect to the management actions.

Opening Remarks

Mike Inamine, Upper San Joaquin RMAWG Executive Sponsor, provided opening remarks and informed the group that his role in Phase 1 of the CVFPP process was to make sure the CVFPP was integrated with other relevant programs. He reminded that group that the ultimate outcome of the CVFPP process will take place in 2012, when the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan is sent to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board for adoption.

Mr. Inamine also reported on two important documents that are currently in development: the State Plan of Flood Control Descriptive Document, which is currently under public review; and the Flood Control System Status Report, which will be released in September/October 2010.

Mr. Inamine noted that while DWR is conducting outreach and soliciting input, it is also moving forward with important local projects like critical levee repairs and levee evaluations.

Mr. Inamine provided an overview of the next phases of the CVFPP process: Phase 2 will be focused on reviewing a broad range of management actions (structural and non-structural); during Phase 3, management actions will be reviewed regionally and incorporated into solutions sets; and Phase 4 will take a system-wide perspective. Mr. Inamine noted that the second Interim Progress Summary report (IPS2) will be released in December 2010, and that Phase 3 will be completed by the end of 2011.

Q: Can you please clarify the following sentence in the 2007 California Flood Legislation Companion Reference: "To assist each city or county in complying with this section, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, the Department of Water Resources, and local flood agencies shall collaborate with cities or counties by providing them with information and other technical assistance."? What information and technical assistance will be provided?

A: A number of the Phase 2 Topic Work Groups – including Finance, Urban Level of Protection, Reservoir Reoperations, Climate Change – will be focusing on finance and revenue generation for flood protection projects. These groups will help clarify how and in what form a funding mechanism will be developed.

Q: How is DWR performing outreach for this project? Is DWR coordinating with other efforts like the Delta Stewardship Council?

A: Outreach is a high priority for DWR. Former Secretary Mike Chrisman made a commitment to the Central Valley and Delta regions that DWR would integrate these various related activities, and a workshop is scheduled for September 2010 to help facilitate this. DWR has been responding to requests for information from the Delta Stewardship Council, and the requests have varied from very specific to more general questions. Also, DWR's Regional Coordinators are monitoring other activities related to the CVFPP. Ernie Taylor, the Upper San Joaquin DWR Regional Coordinator, will be looking for ways to integrate efforts and keep various regional groups informed. Mr. Taylor is a DWR representative for the San Joaquin River Restoration -Program.

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Comment: Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs) consider funding, and they offer a natural opportunity for coordination since funding will also be important for CVFPP. These plans should be considered.

Response: Please let us know if there are other programs that should be considered for coordination.

Goal 4 of the CVFPP is to provide multi-benefit outcomes; these are the projects that will be implementable.

Jim Eto -reviewed CVFPP Phase 1, during which existing conditions and problems and opportunities were identified, goals were developed, and the first Interim Progress Summary report (IPS1) was produced. Mr. Eto noted that the CVFPP will focus on areas that directly receive protection from the State Plan of Flood Control (i.e. State Plan of Flood Control Planning Area), but that the Systemwide Planning Area will also be considered. Mr. Eto also noted that the primary goal of the CVFPP is to improve flood risk management. He then provided a brief summary of the June 3, 2010, Valleywide Forum, stating that it was well attended.

Q: What was the size of the venue where the Valleywide Forum was held?

A: The venue could comfortably fit 75 people, and it was at full capacity.

Q: Were attendees of the forum participants of the Phase 1 Work Groups or members of the general public?

A: The crowd was mixed – there were some work group members, members of the general public, and some elected representatives as well. There were another 100-125 webcast viewers watching remotely.

Q: Can you describe the CVFPP goal “Improve institutional support.”

A: DWR wants to ensure that local agencies are supportive of this effort. To work, the plan needs to be broadly supported.

Q: Would this goal extend to the CVFPP helping to solve local flooding problems?

A: The plan needs to identify solutions that improve both the system and local needs. The people who are tasked with operating and maintaining facilities are faced with a myriad of local jurisdictions and authorization, permitting and regulatory processes, and there are gaps in the institutional framework. For example, the San Joaquin River does not have an erosion plan. Part of the goal of CVFPP is to identify what we want the river to look like in the future. The goal of the CVFPP is to fill in the gaps.

A: State and federal agencies need to make the system function more effectively so local agencies can complete their projects. For example, obtaining a permit can be very difficult; the process should be streamlined.

Overview of Management Actions Development Process, Organization, and Documentation

Eric Clyde, MWH technical lead, presented the 2012 CVFPP development timeline and identified where the work group currently resides in the plan development process. Mr. Clyde noted that Phase 2 will largely focus on management actions, defined as “a single action that can address one or more of the five CVFPP goals identified during Phase 1.” He added that in order to reduce the burden on work groups and to increase efficiency, there will be fewer work group meetings and two rounds of half-day, systemwide topic workshops during Phase 2 to solicit feedback on potential management actions. The first round will capture general feedback on the potential management actions, and the second round will capture feedback on how the management actions apply to different settings (urban, rural, etc.). Mr. Clyde noted that the workshops will be webcast and archived on the CVFPP website. He directed the group to the Workshop Attendees’ Guide, including workshop topics and dates, in their meeting binders.

Mr. Clyde noted that the next Upper San Joaquin RMAWG meeting will be held in September 2010, and the third will be held in November 2010. There will also be another CVFPP Valleywide Forum in December 2010. Mr. Clyde added that there will be Topic Work Groups during Phase 2 and that sub-committees may be convened for specific assignments in the future.

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Mr. Clyde reviewed the management actions development process and the different categories of management actions. Brian Smith, DWR, clarified that the existing list of management actions came from Phase 1 and that the list could be augmented if necessary. Mr. Clyde invited the group to review the Management Action Summary Table and the categorization by topic of potential management actions, adding that the structure of the table will allow comparative analysis of the management actions.

Q: Gaining environmental clearances and performing environmental documentation are challenging during flood response. Will emergency response be covered in any of the Phase 2 workshops?

A: The DWR flood operations center is staffing compliance staff on the emergency response teams to make sure there is documentation. This is a high priority for the flood centers.

Q: Some management actions are closely related; how will DWR capture how these management actions can work together?

A: When distilling the list of management actions, an effort was made to merge as many management actions as possible. Additional merging will likely take place when the regional solution sets (i.e. groups of management actions) are created.

Q: Can you clarify management action #53 (Update state and local floodplain management policy to be consistent with FEMA requirements for maintaining eligibility for NFIP participation and federal financial assistance)? Locally we have to be compliant with FEMA, but how does the state play a role?

A: DWR is currently promoting actions that may be in conflict with FEMA criteria. Some FloodSAFE initiatives need to better coexist with FEMA regulations.

Comment: This situation sounds unique to Sacramento. In any floodplain, we can build but there are appropriate ways to do it.

Q: Concerning management action #53, does this mean the process could influence federal rules like levee vegetation?

A: The state is in conflict with USACE on this issue and is currently enforcing the interim guidelines. Regarding vegetation on levees, communities can go directly to FEMA and may be able to be compliant, but it would not pass USACE regulations. This discrepancy needs to be reconciled.

Q: How will the workshops be structured?

A: The structure of the workshops is still in development. For each workshop, the Evaluation Form corresponding to each relevant management action will be reviewed.

Q: Are the management action Evaluation Forms currently available?

A: A draft evaluation form has been completed for each of the management actions. These will be available on the CVFMP website two weeks in advance of the first round of workshops. The team will send a notification email when the forms are ready for review.

Q: How is climate change being addressed in the management actions?

A: There will be a Phase 2 Topic Work Group focusing on climate change since the topic spans many of the management actions. Each of the management actions will be evaluated on its adaptability for climate change.

Q: Are the categories of management actions further defined?

A: The categories will be further described in the workshops.

Comment: DWR should develop a comment form to gather input on management actions during the topic workshops. Workshops participants could use the form to prepare ahead of time.

Response: A comment form will be available. These comments will help inform the workshops, and they are welcome. Comments on the evaluation form itself are also welcome.

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Comment: There should be a “comments submitted” section included in each of the evaluation forms, wherever it is applicable on the form. This will allow everyone to review the comments that have been submitted.

Response: The team will forward this recommendation to the program team. Perhaps a public comment category could be added to the management actions database. How comments on management actions will be considered has not yet been determined; the program team will consider the option of creating a comment log.

Comment: On the second page of the draft management action Evaluation Form, the technical considerations section might just include “yes” and “no” boxes to simplify the response requested.

Response: This section was created this way because the response is often more complex than a simple “yes” or “no”. We want to be able to capture the details.

Following a short break, Pal Hegedus, CVFED, presented on the development of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data related the CVFPP. Mr. Hegedus noted that his team is conducting surveys, and is working with property owners in the field.

Q: Who should we contact to obtain orthophotography data?

A: You should contact Yiguo Liang at DWR. His email address is: yliang@water.ca.gov.

Looking Forward to Creating Solution Sets

Eric Clyde continued his presentation on management actions, focusing on the formulation of regional solution sets. Mr. Clyde reviewed example themes of solution sets, including restoring the reliability of the state plan of flood control, focusing on critical flood safety, and focusing on public safety and the use of non-structural activities. Mr. Clyde noted that regional solution sets will be developed in Phase 3 of the CVFPP process.

Pam Jones then invited work group members to ask clarifying questions on the formulation of solution sets.

Q: Can you clarify what you meant in saying that solution sets will be formulated to include common elements?

A: For example, there could be common elements between the regional solution sets of streamlining permitting and increasing transitory storage. We would want to define elements that can be used across these solution sets. A common element would be that as the initial investment increases, the benefit of that element increases with it.

Comment: As the solution sets are developed, there may be themes that can be combined that will make the solution more viable. For example, some potential solutions may appear too expensive but when combined with other solutions that may be more viable.

Response: How to package the solution sets to make them viable will be an important consideration.

Comment: The scale of implementability should be one of the criteria considered. Inter-area benefit (i.e. up and down stream) is another consideration that should be made.

Comment: Water rights are going to be challenging when developing regional solution sets.

Response: Yes, we will need to work through these issues.

Preparing for Management Actions Workshops

Pam Jones referred to the management actions topical workshop attendees list, and requested that work group members commit to attending workshops that interested them. Ms. Jones also requested that if there were others outside of the group who should attend certain workshops because of their expertise or interest, that they be identified. The following members and program staff committed to participate in the upcoming workshops in late July/early August 2010:

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Ecosystem Restoration

- Mari Martin (maybe)
- Ernie Taylor

Disaster Preparedness & Flood Warning

- Kellie Jacobs
- Brian Smith

Flood Fighting, Emergency Response & Flood Recovery

- Reggie Hill
- Brian Smith

Flood Protection System Modification

- Reggie Hill
- Geoff Rabone
- Ernie Taylor

Finance and Revenue

- Kellie Jacobs

Operation and Maintenance

- Reggie Hill
- Kellie Jacobs

Policy & Regulations

- Kellie Jacobs
- Geoff Rabone
- Steve Stadler

Floodplain Management

- Kellie Jacobs
- Mari Martin (maybe)
- Steve Stadler
- Erik Vink (likely)

Additional Storage

- Randy Anthony
- Reggie Hill
- Steve Stadler

Storage Reoperation

- Randy Anthony
- Reggie Hill
- Steve Stadler

Next Steps, Meeting Recap

Eric Clyde gave the group instructions on how to provide written comments on CVFPP work products, referring to the handout included in their binders. Mr. Clyde noted that written comments will be responded to, acknowledging that they have been received. He also noted that conflicting comments will be researched and the technical team will do its best to capture the range of comments.

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Mike Inamine commented that a great deal of work was performed to develop the current list of potential management actions. He acknowledged concerns over how well the management actions will be addressed in the upcoming workshops and asked the group how comfortable they felt heading into the workshops. Several members responded that they needed time to review the management actions evaluation forms before having a better sense.

Pam Jones thanked the work group members for their participation.